

5  
Indent  
3 spaces

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2. Machines

The processing of such vast quantities of data received in a variety of media made it imperative that every possible machine application be explored. OCD, through its Machine Division, has maintained close contact through <sup>out</sup> its history with leading designers and manufacturers of information retrieval and micro-photographic equipment. In fact, the ingenuity and expertise of OCD employees and the unique <sup>information handling</sup> needs of OCD in some instances led to the development of new machinery or new applications of existing equipment especially adapted to its problems. The utilization of aperture cards for storage, the Photostat Expediter for rapid reproduction, use of the Flexowriter, modification of Recordak cameras, and testing closed circuit television equipment were but some of the projects reviewed and adapted by the Machine Division. The expertise of the personnel of this Division was constantly being brought up to date by special training which kept them abreast of rapidly changing technology and prepared them for conversion to the world of computers.

Not all experimentation was successful. In 1954, the AD/CD had some

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doubts whether the Rapid Selector (a machine for the rapid sorting of material on microfilm, developed by <sup>25X1A</sup> [redacted] and others) could be adapted for

OCD's special needs. <sup>49</sup> Another item tested was the Videograph Reproduction <sup>25X1A</sup> System, developed by the [redacted] of interest to OCR as an improved

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internal office reproduction system which would be dry, faster than the Photostat

Expediters, and which could cope with both hard copy and aperture cards. Two

years of developmental work and testing (1960-1962) proved it was a system that

could meet these requirements. Nevertheless, it was rejected by OCR because

The AD/CD had suggested that the machine not be delivered to OCD until it could carry the workload OCD required of it after testing. If it could not meet the standards he set, OCD should not accept delivery.

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failed the test

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the end product was unacceptably poor copy. <sup>410</sup> Another experiment, MINICARD (see Chapter IV, Section 5), was also terminated in 1960 because it was concluded that it would not provide substantially improved service. Weighing very heavily were the new limitations of staff, space and money—all reduced since the inception of the project in 1958. <sup>411</sup>

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